Launching of GRAMSAT

1565. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) proposes to place a separate satellite series, GRAMSAT in orbit for a massive programme of rural education and continuing education in industries;

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof; and

(b) by when it would be placed in orbit and to what extent it would help in educational TV programmes particularly rural education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has envisaged a concept of dedicated satellite "GRAMSAT" that could be launched by ISRO's Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). The salient features of the satellite are its compatibility with GSLV launch vehicle and a configuration that would be suitable for transmitting signals for reception directly by augmented TV receivers and also for terrestrial rebroadcasting However, the proposal is yet to be considered by the Government.

(c) A time-frame of 1995-96 has been envisaged. This satellite could be used for eradicating illiteracy in rural areas and for rural development through audio visual education in health, hygiene, better agriculutral facilities, family planning etc., in the local languages, taking into consideration locale specific and culture specific requirements of each region.

Ban on child labour

1566 SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether a number of Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of the children have recently demanded an immediate ban on child labour in hazardous occupations;

(b) if so, whether the above organisations have also demanded the publication of a white paper on the implementation of the provisions of Child Labour Act, 1986; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and by when a ban on child labour would be imposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The employment of children below the age of 14 years is banned in factories, mines and in various hazardous occupations. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 specifies, in the Schedule thereto, occupations and processes in which a child below the age of 14 years cannot be employed or permitted to work. A Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee is also constituted under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to advise the Central Government for the purpose of addition of occupations and processes to the Schedule of the Act. Further, the National Child Labour Policy formulated in 1987 contains, *inter-alia* a Legal Action Plan which provides for effective implementation of the legal provisions realting to child labour.

Implementation of the provisions of the Chidl Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and provisions pertaining to child labour contained in various other Acts lies in the main with State Governments/ Union Territories who have been addressed from time to time for strict implementation of these legal provisions.

Damages due to fires in the Country

1567. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly one lakh people are killed and property worth Rs 100 crore is damaged due to fires every year in the country;

(b) if so whether the Central Government propose to modernise the fire management; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Fire is a State subject and the figures on loss of life and property due to fire are maintained by State Governments and Municipalities under whom fire services function. There is no single agency in the country maintaining figures on fire losses However, the Loss Prevention Association of India estimated that loss of property due to fire in 1986 was Rs 1000 crores.

(b) and (c) Fire being a State Subject modernisation of fire management is the responsibility of the State Govt. However, for modernisation of fire Service the Central Government has arranged loans to the tune of Rs. 15 crores per annum for the State Governments from General Insurance Corp of India In addition to this Japanese financial assistance has also been arranged by the Central Government for modernisation of fire fighting arrangements of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Kanpur

CBI cases against public servants in September, 1990

1568 SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CBI has registered a large number of cases for investigation in September, 1990 against public servants involved in corrupt activities;

(b) if so, the details of the public servants against whom the cases have been registered;

(c) whether the houses of these public servants have also been raided by CBI;

(d) if so, the details of incriminating documents, cash, jewellery and other documents seized; and

(e) what action Government propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) A statement indicating the requisite details is annexed.

(c) Searches were conducted on the residential/office premises of 14 public servants.

(d) During the course of above searches, the following assets were discovered —

(i) Cash/FDRs etc.	Rs. 11,89,381 00
(ii) Gold/Jewellery	Rs. 2,55,500 00

Besides these, 420 incriminating documents were also seized.

(e) Cases have been registered against the concerned public servants.

Statement

Department/Public sector undertaking-wise details of public servants against whom cases were registered by CBI during September 1990.

Sl.No.	Name of Ministry /Department/Public Sector Undertakings	No. of officials
1	Department of Railways	16
2	Department of Defence	3
3	Department of Telecommunications	5
4	Ministry of Home Affairs	2